



Kaiserslautern Military Community Retiree Activities Office

Fact Sheet: Local Burial Info-- Military Retiree (Veteran)

Background: All of us should prepare for the inevitable but it is hard to do for a lot of us thus we hope this information helps guide you through the process. First of all, if you reside over here in Germany there are not any American cemeteries available to make your last resting place. Thus if burial is desired here in Germany, you will have to consider the local town cemeteries.

Your Current Situation: If you are married to a German or another European National you may have already discussed and even spelled out in your Last Will & Testament what is to be done; i.e. cremation and small burial plot versus a larger plot for a casket. Like in the United States burial plots in the local cemeteries are pre-paid for up to for example 25-years. If your European spouse pre-deceases you and you (American) decide beforehand that you will stay here beyond her/his death and be buried together, and then a double plot can be pre-paid for at the time of the first one's passing. These decisions/desires should be spelled out and kept on file with your important documents.

Local Burial: Most all burial services are handled by the local **Beridngsinstitut** (Funeral Home) which might be the carpenter in a smaller village. While of sound mind and physically capable one should check out who handles burials in your town. This person in conjunction with the local minister or pastor usually performs the service. Note: If an American Chaplain is desired, you will have to make contact with the Chaplain and the coordination process will take longer. With sufficient coordination you can also have the military **honor guard** present at the funeral. Contact with the Mortuary Affairs Office is a must. They can be reached at: 480-5968 or 06371-47-5968. Or via e-mail at: 86aw.honorguard@us.af.mil

Funeral Costs: Many veterans and their spouses think that the status of being a veteran means that the government will pay for their burial. This is not true at all and could cause great financial hardship for families who don't understand it at a time when they are least prepared to deal with it. However, the VA may provide a burial flag, a government marker, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, regardless of where the veteran is buried. It is the responsibility of the veteran's family to make arrangements for funeral services with a funeral home, including memorial services, viewings, preparing and transporting the remains, the casket, etc. The Air Force, the Army nor does the VA pay for any expenses related to a veteran's burial or funeral. For more information:

Contacts: Via telephone at DSN 480-5486 or Civilian 06371-47-5486 (Leave a message if no one is in) or write an e-mail to: 86aw.rao@us.af.mil

OPR: 86 AW/RAO, James A. Barrante, CMSgt (R), Senior Consultant, 20 Feb 2016